2016

OFFICIAL JOURNAL & YEARBOOK

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The One Hundred Ninety-first Session
(Forty-seventh since Union)
Grove City, Pennsylvania
June 9-12, 2016

Editor: John Robert Wilson

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I Officers of the Conference

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THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE
PITTSBURGH AREA

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77 West Washington, Suite 1500 Chicago, Illinois 60602 www.gcsrw.org
United Methodist Men, General Commission on ..................................................... 615/340-7145
1000 17th Ave South, Nashville, TN 37203 www.gcum.org
UNITED METHODIST GIVING PROGRAM

The United Methodist Church has eight apportioned funds, six church wide Special Sundays with offerings and two designated giving programs—all which need your support. In addition, annual conferences take special offerings on Christian Education Sunday, Golden Cross Sunday and Rural Life Sunday. The United Methodist Children’s Fund for Christian Mission and the Youth Service Fund provide opportunities for young people to share their resources.

**Apportioned Funds**

- **World Service Fund** supports outreach through the work of general agencies and other national and international mission programs. It also underwrites a comprehensive television and telecommunications ministry, and pension and salary equalization. 2017 apportionment: $1,314,081

- **Ministerial Education Fund** provides educational support for ordained elders, ordained deacons and diaconal ministers of the church through funding for theological schools, recruitment, professional development and continuing education. 2017 apportionment: $332,876

- **Black College Fund** provides operating funds and capital for 11 historically Black colleges including a medical school. 2017 apportionment: $177,042

- **Africa University Fund** helps support a new university in Africa providing post-secondary education for African students. Africa University is partly funded by World Service Special Gifts in addition to the apportionment. 2017 apportionment: $39,621

- **Episcopal Fund** is for salaries, pensions, office operations, official travel and other expenses for the bishops. 2017 apportionment: $389,153

- **General Administrative Fund** supports general agencies whose work is administrative in nature, the cost of General Conference and other items essential to the operation of The United Methodist Church. 2017 apportionment: $156,036

- **Interdenominational Cooperation Fund** supports United Methodist participation in the World and National Councils of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union. It also pays the travel expenses of United Methodist delegates to those bodies. 2017 apportionment: $34,711

- **Jurisdictional Fund** supports the collective ministries of the conferences in the northeastern United States, including Western Pennsylvania. 2017 apportionment: $29,282

**Designated Gifts**

- **Advance Specials** permit churches and individuals to support mission and relief projects with voluntary gifts. Every dollar given to the Advance goes to the project designated by the donor.

- **World Service Special Gifts** permit churches and individuals to contribute to approved projects of World Service-related agencies. Every dollar goes to the project designated by the donor.

**Special Sundays with Offerings**

- **Human Relations Day**, the Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday observance, supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

- **One Great Hour of Sharing**, the fourth Sunday of Lent, provides major support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which aids in refugee ministries, disaster-response ministries and hunger ministries.
Native American Awareness Sunday, the second Sunday after Easter, funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries and annual conference Native American ministries.

Peace with Justice Sunday, the second Sunday of Pentecost, supports peace with justice ministries through the General Board of Church and Society and the annual conference.

World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, supports Crusade Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

United Methodist Student Day, the last Sunday in November, provides loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students.

Other Special Offerings

Christian Education Sunday. The conference determines the date and how the offering is used to strengthen Christian education.

Disability Awareness Sunday. Special offering to promote awareness issues and ministries that provide opportunities for fuller inclusion of people with disabilities.

Golden Cross Sunday (Red Stocking Sunday). The annual conference determines the date and how the offering will be used to support health and welfare ministries.

Rural Life Sunday. The annual conference determines the date and how the offering will be used to strengthen the nurture, outreach, and witness of congregations in town and rural areas.

Other Conference Special Offerings

Camping Sunday supports the summer program in order to reduce registration costs for participants.

Doors to Hope at Home for continued support of the six Western PA Conference regional mission agencies, within the Conference boundaries with additional funds to continue and expand their work.

UMVIM Sunday support the Conference and Jurisdictional UMVIM offices and programs, with 90% of funds collected going to the Conference VIMship Advance Special, and a tithe of 10% to the Jurisdictional UMVIM programming efforts.

Youth Service Fund supports projects of mission and ministry by and for youth as well as administration of the fund.

Conference Special Sundays without Offerings

Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union Month to promote being good and faithful stewards of God’s gifts by learning about the resources and benefits of becoming members of our credit union.

Retired Clergy Sunday to honor retired clergy, spouses or surviving spouses
### 2017 Special Days and Program Calendar

**Jan 6** | Epiphany to commemorate the coming of the Magi
---|---
**Jan 15** | Human Relations Day to encourage better human relations; offering funds to community developers, voluntary services, and youth offender rehabilitations.
**Jan 16** | Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Observed
**Jan 18-25** | Prayer for Christian Unity Week
**Feb** | Black History Month to celebrate the historical contributions of African Americans to the worship life, mission and ministry of the church
**Feb 12** | Scouting Sunday to emphasize scouting as ministry to children
**Feb 18-19** | Disability Awareness Weekend to promote issues as well as ministries providing opportunities for fuller inclusion of those with disabilities.
**March** | Women’s History Month
**Mar (any)** | UMVIM Weekend a day for promoting Volunteers in Mission.
**Mar 1** | Ash Wednesday to begin Christian self-examination for Lent
**Mar 3** | World Day of Prayer to link Christian women of the world in prayer.
**Mar 12** | Daylight Savings Time begins – Spring Forward
**Mar 26** | One Great Hour of Sharing to share the goodness of life with those who hurt; offering funds, programs of relief, rehabilitation and service
**Apr 9** | Palm Sunday to commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem
**Apr 13** | Holy Thursday to celebrate the institution of the Eucharist
**Apr 14** | Good Friday to commemorate Christ’s death
**Apr 16** | Easter Sunday to celebrate Christ’s resurrection
**Apr 25** | World Malaria Day
**Apr 30** | Native American Sunday to recognize Native Americans in society, offering funds to ministries, urban initiatives and seminary scholarships
**May 8-14** | Christian Family Week to focus on families in the church & community
**May 14** | Mother’s Day
**May 6-7** | Golden Cross Weekend to further the work of health & welfare ministries in the annual conference (or another date chosen by local church)
**June 4** | Pentecost to celebrate the birthday of the Church
**May 21** | Heritage Sunday to call the church to remember the past by committing to God’s continuing call
**June 11** | Peace with Justice Sunday to call the church to peace with justice, offering funds to annual conference and General Board of Church & Society peace with justice ministries
**June 11** | Trinity Sunday
**June 8-11** | Annual Conference held at Grove City College
**June 18** | Father’s Day
**August 12-13** | Rural Life Weekend to emphasize the value of rural life & agriculture
**Sept 9-10** | Christian Education Weekend to call the church to be open to growth and learning
**Sept 16-17** | Retired Clergy Weekend to honor retired clergy, spouses or surviving spouses
**Oct 1** | World Communion Sunday
**Oct 6-7** | Children’s Sabbath
**Oct 7-8** | Camping Weekend
**Oct 15** | Laity Sunday to celebrate the ministry of all Christians
**Nov 1** | All Saints Day to remember departed Saints
**Nov 4-5** | Youth Service Fund Weekend offering to assist youth programs locally & globally
**Nov 5** | Daylight Savings Time ends clocks fall back
**Nov 19** | Bible Sunday to acknowledge the place of the Bible in today’s world
**Nov 23** | Thanksgiving Day to thank God for blessings, commemorating our national heritage
**Nov 26** | United Methodist Student Day to call the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge; offering funds scholarships & loans
**Advent** | Doorways to Hope at Home for continued support of the six Western PA Conference regional mission agencies within the Conference boundaries
**Dec 24/25** | Christmas to celebrate the birth of Christ
**Dec 31** | Watch Night to usher in the New Year with covenant renewal.
Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

Plan for Ministry

MISSION
To provide leadership, connection, and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

VISION
To ignite and sustain a passionate, spiritual connection with Christ among all people in Western Pennsylvania.

CORE VALUE

Our core value is love: We love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

This value is commanded by Jesus, inspired by our Wesleyan heritage including to spread scriptural holiness over the land, and witnessed through our integrity, accountability and inclusiveness.

Five Areas of Focus
• Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
• Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.
• Engaging in ministry with the poor.
• Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.
• Dismantling racism.